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Interactions between the Groups of Insects and Selected Types of Flowers as Ecological Units in a Litter Meadow

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Nowadays meadows destined for the production of grass for litter belong to the most endangered biotopes. Many flowering plants of the Red List of endangered species of Salzburg exist only in this type of habitat.

Little is known about the interaction between insects and flowers (ecological units of pollination contrary to flowers as morphological units of pollination). These interactions will be examined based on a complex of three litter meadows in Knotzing near Lamprechtshausen.

During two seasons the visits of the different types of flowers by the different groups of insects (butterflies, bumblebees and wild bees) will be monitored. The thesis analyses, on one hand, the frequency and time of day of these visits, and on the other hand, the corresponding anthesis phase. Furthermore, the effectivity of the pollinating activity of these insects, i.e., how many of the ovula finally develop into germinable seeds, will be assessed.

For each selected plant species, the results will be presented by an anthesis-time-diagram documenting the flower-visiting activity of the different groups of insects. Other graphs will show the correlation between the different types of flowers and the groups of pollinating insects.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: Sauteria-Schriftenreihe f. systematische Botanik, Floristik u. Geobotanik

Jahr/Year: 2008

Band/Volume: 16

Autor(en)/Author(s): Langmann Ulrike

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